

COUNTRY: Eastern Germany

TOPIC: Air Force Training Fields

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EVALUATION: see belowPLACE OBTAINED:

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE): 3 - a sketch on ditto

REMARKS: SOURCE:

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Gadow-Rossow Bombing and Firing Range.

1. Between 23 May and 7 June, only individual jet bombers were occasionally observed over the bombing and firing range. In some cases, open bomb bays were seen by source. At 9:15 and 9:45 a.m. on 25 June, three jet planes carrying bombs were observed crossing the field at an altitude of about 300 meters, the cloud base being at about 400 meters.

2. In early July 1952, seven bundles of flare signals were seen at night over the Gadow-Rossow bombing and firing range. According to a local resident, about 100 men wearing black-bordered blue epaulets were quartered at Rosenack. They were assigned the mission of setting up the targets at the bombing and firing range. (1)

Gersdorf Firing Range.

3. On two days between 11 and 13 April 1952, groups of four MiG-15s or type-29 planes practiced firing at the Gersdorf firing range (N 53/V 18). The planes approached the targets individually and fired bursts of five or six rounds. This procedure was repeated several times. No MiG-15s have been observed dropping bombs at the range. (2)

Gross-Welle-Garz Firing Range.

4. On 4 May, source observed a firing range east of the Pritzwalk-Havelberg road between the localities of Garz-Gross Welle and Neu Strelkow. The range covered about 87 acres and had a sodded surface. The contours of two four-engine aircraft marked by an American star were reproduced by means of white sand on the ground. The targets were 25 paces long and 31 paces wide and were marked by a white cross and a rectangle 4x5 meters (sic). The area was pitted with small craters produced by aircraft cannons. Source had previously observed that jet fighters practiced firing at this range two or three days a week. The approaches to the range were only blocked when firing was practiced. (3)

Kuhhorst Air Force Training Field.

5. In early July, source observed four parachutists each jumping from a twin-engine plane and a towed glider from an altitude of about 500 meters over Kuhhorst. The

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glider was released over Staaken. (4)

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Kremmen Bombing and Firing Range.

6. On 13 June 1952, source observed that the Kremmen bombing and firing range extended from Kremmen as far as Linverhort and to the north as far as the Oranienburg canal. While the range was being used, the surrounding area was cordoned off. Dummy villages, gun emplacements and aircraft were seen at the range. Firing and bomb release was frequently practiced there by single and twin-engine aircraft, jet fighters and jet bombers. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 18 June, the range was crossed by type-27 jet bombers, which dropped bombs while flying individually or in groups of two. The bomb craters were four meters in diameter and about 1 1/2 meters deep. When detonating, the bombs created a black cloud. No practices were held on 19 June.

7. On 20 June, eight jet fighters were observed practicing low-level attacks at targets. After a pause, 12 jet fighters approached and practiced low-level attacks in groups of two and five. The planes pulled out at an altitude of about 30 meters. A detail of about 11 men stationed at the bomb range was quartered at the Kremmen Schuetzenhaus (club house of a rifle association).

25X1 The detail used truck [] and van-like truck [] About 8 a.m. on 24 June, eight single-engine planes crossed the field and, after breaking up into two formations fired at targets in groups of two and three. The planes dived at an angle of 45° and pulled out at an altitude of 20 to 30 meters. Source observed that the planes involved in these practices discharged a projectile in shape and size similar to a bazooka rocket, which approached the target with a hiss and exploded with a loud report. The planes remained for about 20 minutes over the range practicing firing without interruption. After they had left the range, another formation of eight planes appeared after an interval of about 30 minutes performing the same exercises. No firing practices were observed on 25 June.

8. On 26 June, single-engine aircraft again practiced firing at the range. Two jet fighters crossed the range and fired at targets. From 8 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. on 27 June, eight single-engine aircraft practiced firing at the range as observed on 24 June. Four twin-engine aircraft dropped bombs over the center of the range. They came down in a glide to an altitude of 300 meters, each plane dropping four bombs in stick bombing. On 28 June, several formations of eight and one formation of 12 single-engine planes were seen over the range. From 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 30 June, single-engine planes practiced at the range. The dummy targets observed in the middle of the bomb range represented aircraft, guns, motor vehicles, bridges and houses. Source found the shell of a 20-mm projectile at the field. (5)

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Comments.

- (1) These data show that the bomb range located between Wittstock and Laerz is still used by fighter and bomber units. Night bombing was previously observed at this range. It is believed that the aircraft seen were IL-28 jet bombers of the Northern Bomber Division.
- (2) This firing range at the edge of the Cersdorf troop training grounds near Koethen was once observed in 1950 by another source. The range is apparently used by the fighter units in Finow which are equipped with MiG-15s.
- (3) Information on this firing range is received for the first time. It is unknown by what fighter regiment the range is used. From its geographical location it is possible that the Fighter regiment from Wittstock practices firing at this range. However, according to reliable information, this regiment practiced firing and bombing at the Schweinrich and Cadow-Rossew ranges also. The latter field is east of Wittstock.

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(4) This air force training field is used by the fighter regiments stationed at Finow. Parachuting over this field, particularly from a glider, is reported for the first time. The landing at Staaken airfield of a glider has not been observed by one of the regular sources covering this installation. On 19 June, a twin-engine plane towing a glider was seen over Schneenwalde so that source's statement relative to the parachuting practiced from such a plane appears

25X1 credible. [REDACTED]. The parachuting was possibly practiced by soldiers of the parachute unit located in the barracks installations north of Doeberitz airfield. This unit reportedly often practices parachuting at Staaken.

(5) For location of the firing and target range, see Annex 1. According to previous information, this range was exclusively used by aircraft of the ground attack division in Doeberitz. The report that jet fighters, jet bombers and twin-engine planes practiced firing at the range requires confirmation and must be received with reserve.

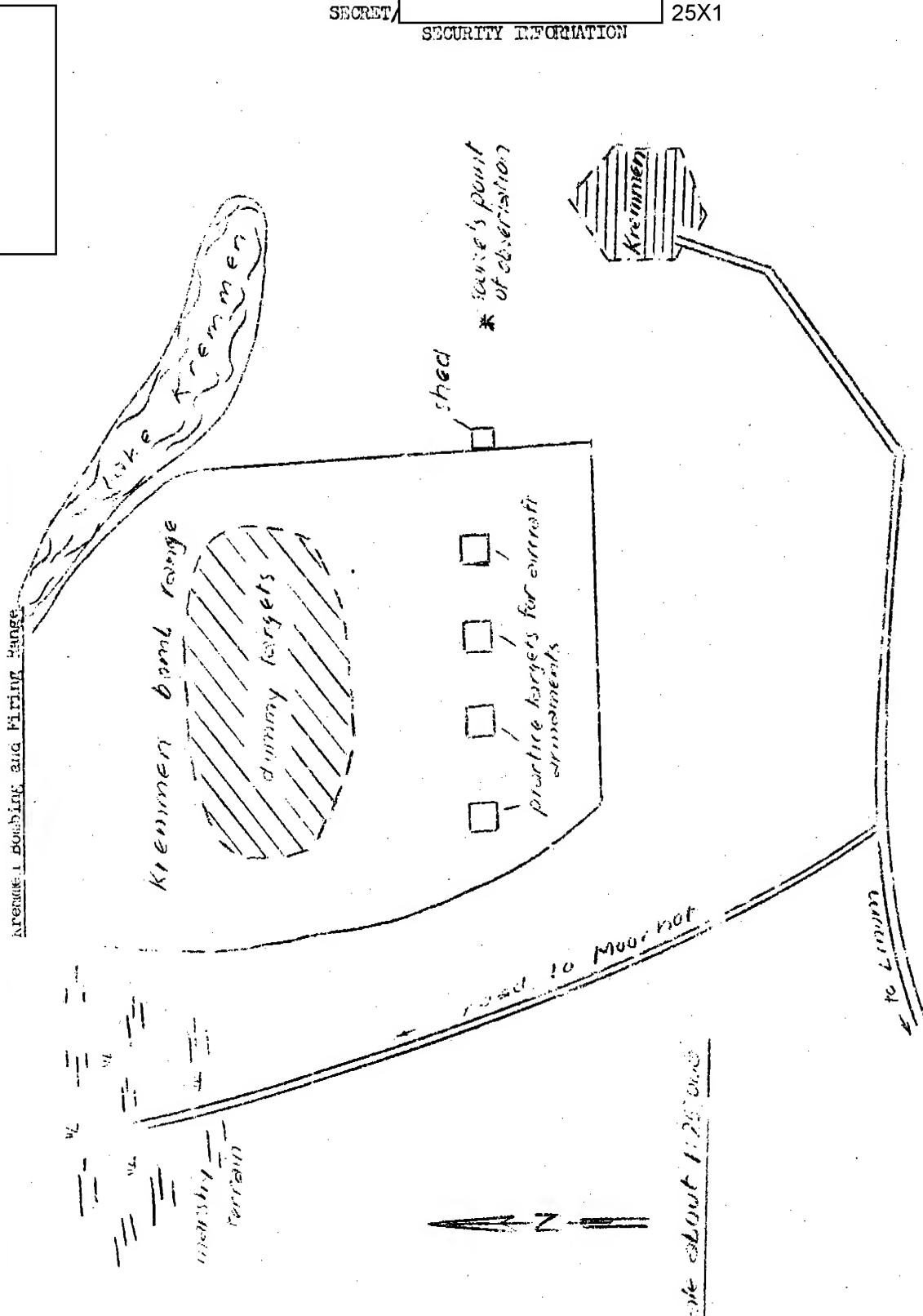
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